

THE

THIRTEENTH



REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

OF THE

WEST-RIDING OF YORK

PAUPER


LUNATIC ASYLUM.

For 1831

Wakefield:

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1832.



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REPORT.

IN presenting the Thirteenth Annual Report of this Institution to the Magistrates, it is obvious that the information it contains must principally be confined to the time, during which the management of it has devolved upon the present Director and Matron. The rules and regulations observed by Dr. and Mrs. Ellis, have been adhered to with very little deviation, all the servants having remained in their respective situations, with the exception of three, who went to the Middlesex Asylum. Of these, however, two have since returned, and have been reinstated in their former places.

Although more Patients have been admitted this year than in any preceding one since the establishment of the Asylum, the advanced price of meat, and of some other kinds of provision, together with the exhausted state of all articles of domestic utility, has rendered it necessary to raise the charge for Patients admitted into the Institution. By an order of the Magistrates, therefore, the weekly payment, which had

been reduced in the beginning of the year to six shillings, has been brought back to the former standard of six shillings and sixpence.

The number of Patients now in the House is 270, and there are several applications for admission.

Great advantage is found from the additional building, not only in decreasing the numbers in the mens' wards, but likewise in affording many other bed-rooms for the women. The basement floor of the front wing to the west, formerly occupied by the Farmer and Patients working in the land, is now appropriated to convalescent Females.

The new wing has been occupied about eight months, and the method of warming it, by means of a current of hot water passing through the day-rooms and galleries, has been made to answer, with less inconvenience than was expected.

The hot and unpleasant atmosphere, which at first was supposed to be occasioned by the fire and boiler's being in so confined a situation, has been discovered to proceed from the drying closet, which is situated under ground in the centre of the building. It therefore becomes an object of imperious necessity, that so great a nuisance, and one involving not less the comfort, than the health of the Patients, should be removed, without loss of time, to an outbuilding. This may be done at a trifling expense, as the building alluded to is at

present almost useless; and a few pipes to convey steam would render it entirely effectual for the purposes required.

An erroneous impression appears to have been made on the public mind, as to the prevalence of Dysentery amongst the Patients. Such an error is calculated to operate very prejudicially, not only by creating a painful apprehension in the friends of those already confined in the Asylum, but likewise by deterring such as can in any way maintain their insane relatives from resorting to the most probable means for their restoration. Instances of this kind have come under my own observation, and have been to me a source of regret. During a very hot summer and an unhealthy season subsequent to it, while the disease was both prevalent and fatal in the neighbouring Towns and Villages, my own and only child, a healthy boy of three years old, who fell a victim to it, was the only serious case in the Institution. Lately a few cases have occurred, and four emaciated patients, two of whom were already sinking when attacked, have died from it. One case of Dysentery now exists in the House; with this exception, the inmates in general are in a very healthy state.

The lighting of the Asylum by means of Oil Gas has become very expensive, from the failure of the Greenland Fisheries. The consumption is 300 feet of Gas every night in the Winter, and this requires 3 gallons of whale oil, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of linseed oil, at an average cost of ten shillings per

night. By an alteration in the apparatus, so as to make Gas from coal instead of oil, 500 feet of Gas might be made from 1 cwt. of coal, for which we are now paying five shillings per ton; thus 500 feet of coal Gas might be made at an expense of about sixpence.

In the months of June, July, and August, several furious maniacs were admitted, some of whom have continued until now in the same state of violent excitement. Lately, eight melancholics who have previously attempted suicide, have come in. This class presents the most distressing picture of human woe: their sufferings are quite inconceivable, and the constant anguish of mind they undergo, renders it a matter of surprise that their bodily health is so little impaired.

There is now a woman in the House who has been here two years, actuated by a constant propensity to self-destruction. The treatment of such cases is extremely difficult; on the one hand, employment and amusement of mind being essential to their recovery; whilst, on the other, scarcely any occupation can be found which does not afford them in some shape or other the means of carrying their fatal propensity into effect. Two, however, of the above-mentioned cases have been discharged cured.

It may not be displeasing to those, whose sympathies are

excited for the unhappy subjects of this mysterious malady, to know, that it is a rare occurrence for a Patient to be discharged from this Institution, without expressing a wish to be permitted again to visit a place, endeared to them by so many indescribable associations, and not unfrequently, during divine service on a Sunday morning, is a visitor of this kind seen joining in the devotional exercises of these unfortunate and interesting individuals.

C. C. CORSELLIS, M.D.
DIRECTOR.

Wakefield, Dec. 31, 1831.

CASH ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£.	s.	D.
To Balance of last Account	1080	1	1
Amount received for Butter	18	18	4
Cows and Calves	71	12	0
Fruit & Vegetables	17	11	6
Pigs	10	6	7
Flannel		8	4
From William Lee, Esq. for Patients chargeable to the			
Riding as Vagrants	88	10	3
From Do. for Inquests	74	0	0
Ditto from Townships	4056	8	2½
Balance received from Dr. Ellis	61	12	3
	5478	8	6½
Balance	279	6	3½
Amount of Accounts due from different Townships ,...	2089	3	10
	£2368	10	1½

CASH ACCOUNT

CONTRA.

CR

	L.	S.	D.
By Amount paid for Wheat, Meal, &c.	1110	18	2
Hops	37	0	7
Porter	16	9	0
Oil for Gas.....	61	1	2
Cotton and Linen Yarn	45	19	0
Seeds	12	17	9
Wine	21	16	6
Straw	100	10	9
Rates and Taxes	27	15	9
Rent of Land to Harrison's Fund.....	36	0	0
Stationary and Postages.....	38	6	11
Bankers' Interest	1	10	2
Cloathing and Bedding	216	2	4
Salaries and Wages.....	1128	15	9
Leather, Hemp, &c.	82	0	11
Earthenware, Baskets, &c.	44	4	7
Manure.....	12	8	3
Malt	417	3	6
Groceries	276	1	9
Drugs	44	14	7
Leeches	7	8	5
Inquests & Funeral Expenses.....	156	16	6
Freight and Carriage	26	4	7
Wool	101	13	0
Incidental	64	0	8
Improvements.....	85	5	10
Mr. Ledger for protecting the Property of the Asylum	23	8	0
Coals	196	5	7
Cows	96	12	6
Fodder	95	2	0
Meat.....	614	7	9
	5199	2	3
Balance	279	6	3½
	5478	8	6½
Tradesmen's Accounts owing.....	470	0	1
Balance in favour of the Institution	1898	10	0½
	£2368	10	1½

PATIENTS.

MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
133	114	247
78	65	143
211	179	390

MALES. FEMALES. TOTAL.

72 49

34 17

38 32

Discharged
Dead

Remaining in the Asylum on the 31st December, 1831

ADMITTED.

Cases not exceeding three months duration, and first attack.	Cases not exceeding twelve months duration, and first attack	Cases not exceeding two years duration, and first attack	Cases of more than two years duration	Cases of those who have had previous attacks.
35	28	5	12	63

DISCHARGED.

Cases not having been in- sane more than three months before admission, and discharged within six months.	Cases not having been in- sane more than twelve months before admission, and discharged within two years.	Cases not having been in- sane more than two years before admission, and discharged within three years.	Cases having had previous attacks.	Cases not cured, discharged by desire of their friends, and by order of the magistrates.
8	13	6	35	10

Admitted since the Asylum opened	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTAL.
Discharged	784	745	1529
Dead	643	617	1260
Remaining	141	128	269

Total number of Patient discharged :—cured, 688; relieved, 127.

Average number of Patients during the year, 254.

Number of Patients admitted in each Year, from 1st January, 1820, to 31st December, 1831.

1820	1821	1822	1823	1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1831
76	89	109	118	122	143	122	114	119	123	113	143

Number of Patients admitted in each Month.

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
100	100	114	98	137	120	149	125	109	103	116	111

Different Ages at which Patients have been admitted.

MALES.

From 16 to 20 years	From 20 to 30 years	From 30 to 40 years	From 40 to 50 years	From 50 to 60 years	From 60 to 70 years	From 70 to 80 years	From 80 to 90 years
37	194	200	190	90	48	13	5

FEMALES.

From 16 to 20 years	From 20 to 30 years	From 30 to 40 years	From 40 to 50 years	From 50 to 60 years	From 60 to 70 years	From 70 to 80 years	From 80 to 90 years
34	176	209	188	79	44	6	2

Statement of Patients Re-admitted.

Patients re-admitted who had not been discharged three months	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and six months	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between six and nine months	Patients re-admitted who had been charged between nine and twelve months	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between one and two years	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between two and three years	Patients re-admitted who had been discharged between three and ten years
16	7	8	MALES. 10	19	7	26
8	9	4	FEMALES. 6	13	12	12
						Total 93
						Total 64

Statement of the Admissions, Discharges, and Deaths, of all the Patients in the Asylum, since its Opening on the 23rd November, 1818.

Patients admitted within three months after the first attack	464	Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than three months before admission	299
Patients admitted within twelve months after the first attack	274	Dead	87
Patients admitted who had been insane from one to thirty years	400	Patients discharged cured, who had not been insane more than twelve months before admission	128
Patients admitted who have had previous attacks, and have been confined before in this Asylum	157	Dead	108
Patients admitted who are stated to have had previous attacks, but who have not been confined here	234	Patients discharged cured, who had been insane from one to many years before admission	42
	1529	Dead	182
		Patients discharged cured, who have had previous attacks	219
		Dead	68
		Patients not cured, discharged by desire of their friends, and others by order of the Magistrates	127
			415 8 15

